

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1 through 20 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 through 3, 9, 10, 12, and 14 through 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by US. Patent Publication No. 2002/0198618 (Madden et al.). Claims 5 through 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious in view of Madden et al. Claim 14 stands objected to for informalities.

Claims 4, 11, and 13 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but have been identified as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants' undersigned representative respectfully requests reconsideration if the above-noted rejections in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Objection To Claim 14

Claim 14 is objected to for using an acronym that is not defined in the claim. Applicants' undersigned representative has amended Claim 14 to define the acronym. Applicants' undersigned representative respectfully request reconsideration of the objection.

The Prior Art Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e), 103(a)

The Claimed Invention

Applicants have disclosed novel systems and methods that integrate several data types in a single user interface. "In response to a request at an operator workstation to initiate the manufacture of an item, scheduling data and inventory data relating to an item to be manufactured is retrieved. Likewise, design data relating to the item to be manufactured is retrieved. The data is used by an operator's terminal to create control signals, which are transmitted to at least one device such as, for example, a winding machine employed in a manufacturing the item. The operator workstation receives real-time event notification as processes are implemented." (Application, paragraph 7).

In accordance with the application disclosure, Claim 1 is directed to a method for controlling a manufacturing process, comprising:

retrieving *to a user interface in response to a user request* at least one of scheduling and inventory data relating to an item to be manufactured;
retrieving *to the user interface in response to a user request* design data corresponding to the item to be manufactured;
transmitting *in response to a user request at the user interface* control data to at least one device adapted to manufacture the item;
receiving *at the user interface real-time manufacturing event notification data* from the at least one device; and
updating at least one of scheduling and inventory data to reflect the real-time manufacturing event notification data.

Similarly, Claim 14 is directed to a system for controlling a manufacturing process, comprising:

an enterprise resource planning (ERP) server, said ERP server having stored thereon transactional data comprising scheduling and inventory data relating to an item to be manufactured, and said ERP server adapted to receive requests and provide access to the scheduling and inventory data;

a scheduling and planning agent in communication with said ERP server, said scheduling and planning agent adapted to receive requests for schedule and inventory data, retrieve schedule and inventory data from said ERP server, and transmit schedule and inventory data to said ERP server; and

a process control interface in communication with said scheduling and planning agent, said process control interface *adapted to request scheduling and inventory data in response to a user request, request design data in response to a user request, transmit control signals to a manufacturing machine in response to a user request*, receive real-time event notification data from the manufacturing machine, and transmit the real-time event notification data to said scheduling and planning agent,

wherein said scheduling and planning agent is further adapted to forward the real-time event notification data to said ERP server and said ERP server is further adapted to update the transactional scheduling and inventory data to reflect the real-time event notification data.

Similarly, Claim 18 is directed to a method for integrating transactional and real-time manufacturing data, comprising:

maintaining a database comprising transactional data comprising scheduling and inventory data;
maintaining a database comprising design data;
retrieving transactional data comprising scheduling and inventory data to a user interface in response to a user request;
retrieving design data to the user interface in response to a user request;
at the user interface, controlling a manufacturing machine using at least in part the design data;
at the user interface, receiving real-time event notification data from the manufacturing machine; and
updating the database comprising transactional data comprising scheduling and inventory data to reflect the real-time event notification data.

In order for a reference to anticipate or render Claims 1, 14 and 18 obvious, the reference must teach all of the elements of the claims, including those emphasized. Applicants' undersigned representative respectfully submits that Madden et al. does not teach the emphasized limitations and cannot anticipate or render the claims obvious.

Madden et al. discloses an automotive assembly line control system, wherein the assembly line includes a number of readers and processing stations to determine and confirm the identity of vehicles passing proximate to the readers and processing stations, and the vehicles' build instructions, status, position, condition, defect and repair history. This information is stored in a computer database. Based on the information stored about the vehicles, the status of inventories, production schedules and the like, a routing of the vehicles through the manufacturing process is determined and implemented. The assembly line incorporates various storage loop and shunting lanes so that members of a lot of vehicles, having similar build instructions, are more likely to be placed into contact with each other, reducing possible parts changeovers, meeting production schedules, accommodating a shortfall in parts availability. (Madden et al., Abstract). Thus, Madden et al. discloses a system for routing vehicles through an assembly line.

Madden et al. further discloses that "connected to network backbone 202 is host computer 204, network or computer server 206, plant signage 207, printers 210, terminals 212 and Programmable Logic Controllers (PLCs) 214. Connected to PLCs 214 is manufacturing equipment 216." (Madden et al., Paragraph 64). "Terminals 212 enable real-

time input and output of data from line workers . . . For example, data corresponding to defects identified . . . may be input into terminals 212 . . .” (Madden et al., Paragraph 66). Thus, in the system disclosed by Madden et al., users employ terminals 212 to enter information relating to product defects.

In contradistinction to the claimed systems and methods, disclosure of terminal 212 in Madden et al. does not teach or suggest a user interface retrieving user-requested scheduling and inventory data relating to an item to be manufactured such that the user interface is the recipient of the scheduling and inventory data. Also, disclosure of terminal 212 in Madden et al. does not teach or suggest the user interface retrieving user-requested design data corresponding to the item to be manufactured such that the user interface is the recipient of the design data. Furthermore, disclosure of terminal 212 in Madden et al. does not teach or suggest the user interface transmitting control data to at least one device adapted to manufacture the item in response to a user request. Finally, disclosure of terminal 212 in Madden et al. does not teach or suggest the user interface receiving real-time manufacturing event notification data from the manufacturing device such that the user interface is the recipient of the real-time manufacturing event data. Indeed, there is no teaching or suggestion in Madden et al. to combine, in a single user interface, such as in terminal 212, the capability for a user to retrieve transactional data and design data, initiate a manufacturing step that uses the retrieved design data, and receive real-time manufacturing data as recited in the amended independent Claims 1, 14 and 18.

Therefore, because Madden et al. does not teach or suggest the combination of multiple elements as recited in the amended claims, it cannot anticipate or render the amended Claims 1, 14 and 18 obvious. Accordingly, Applicants’ undersigned representative respectfully requests withdrawal of the prior art rejections.

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Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, Applicants' undersigned representative submits that the present application is in a condition for allowance upon entry of the amendments herein. A Notice of Allowance for all pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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